

## Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:JFC

APPROVED BY NEA - MR. DAY

NEA:AMB. BROWN

S/S:JHOGANSON

S:PBARBIAN

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O 300028Z APR 76 ZFF6

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 104056 TOSEC 110376

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM DAY AND BROWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGSS: PFOR, LE

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMO: LEBANESE ELECTIONS (SS NO.7608989)

REF: SECTO 11168, BEIRUT 3822, 3823, 3827

1. ALTHOUGH WE WERE ORIGINALLY OF VIEW THAT MAY 1 PARLIAM-  
MENTARY SESSION WOULD TAKE PLACE AS SCHEDULED, WE CANNOT  
DISPUTE CHARGE WARING'S JUDGMENT THAT POSTPONEMENT NOW  
APPEARS MORE LIKELY THAN NOT.

2. WITH MATTERS THREATENING TO UNRAVEL ONCE AGAIN, WE  
BELIEVE TWO THINGS SHOULD BE DONE:

A. WARING SHOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH JUMBLATT IF POSSIBLE  
AND, IF NOT, WITH JUMBLATT'S CLOSE ASSOCIATES TO URGE THAT  
THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION TAKE PLACE AS PLANNED, MAKING  
THE POINT THAT EVERY OPPORTUNITY MUST BE SEIZED TO MAKE PRO-  
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GRESS IN RESOLVING THE KEY ISSUES FACING THE COUNTRY. WAR-

ING SHOULD REFER TO TALKS THAT BROWN HAD WITH JUMBLATT TO THE EFFECT THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT ALL THE LEBANESE PARTIES COLLABORATE IN SOLVING THEIR OWN PROBLEMS AND THAT THIS PROCEDURE REQUIRED RESTRAINT ON THE PART OF EVERYONE CONCERNED, INCLUDING JUMBLATT. WARING COULD SAY THAT BROWN HAD FOUND FULL SUPPORT DURING HIS CONSULTATIONS WITH THE SECRETARY AND IN WASHINGTON FOR THE VIEW THAT MATTERS

COULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO DRIFT IN LEBANON AND THAT EVEN A SINGLE DAY'S DELAY CARRIES RISKS THAT FRAGILE CEASEFIRES AND OTHER UNDERSTANDINGS WOULD BE UPSET.

B. BROWN HIMSELF SHOULD LEAVE WASHINGTON FRIDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 30 FOR LONDON AND GO DIRECTLY FROM THERE TO BEIRUT UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO REMAIN IN LONDON FOR A WHILE. IF THERE OCCURS ANY DELAY PAST MAY 1, WE BELIEVE BROWN HAS TO BE THERE TO DO WHAT HE CAN TO URGE THE FACTIONS TO HOLD THE ELECTION PROMPTLY.

2. OUR RECOMMENDATION THAT WARING CONCENTRATE HIS PRESENT EFFORTS ON JUMBLATT IS BASED ON OUR JUDGMENT THAT HE REMAINS BOTH THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY KEY. POSSIBILITY (BEIRUT 3827) THAT JUMBLATT INTENDS TO CREATE SECURITY CONDITIONS UNFAVORABLE TO ELECTIONS ON MAY 1 IS DISQUIETING. WARING SHOULD DO HIS BEST TO

DISCOURAGE THIS STEP. WHILE THE CHAMOUNISTS CHARACTERISTICALLY LIKE TO PLAY FOR TIME, AND CHAMOUN HIMSELF HAS SUGGESTED A POSTPONEMENT UNTIL TUESDAY, MAY 4, ONE OF OUR BETTER INFORMANTS IN THAT CAMP HAD PREVIOUSLY INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD PARTICIPATE IN ANY SCHEDULED SESSION INCLUDING FOR MAY 1. THE CHAMOUNISTS SHOULD BE SECOND PRIORITY IN OUR EFFORTS.

3. THE PHALANGE ELEMENTS, AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL, HAVE BEEN PUSHING VERY HARD FOR THE MAY 1 SESSION, BELIEVING THAT MOMENTUM AND SUPPORT FOR THEIR PREFERRED CANDIDATE--SARKIS--IS GROWING.

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4. WARING SHOULD OF COURSE BE CAREFUL TO REITERATE OUR POSITION THAT WE FAVOR NO INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATE, SINCE JUMBLATT--AS WELL AS OTHERS--COULD MISINTERPRET APPROACHES ON THE EVE OF THE MAY 1 SCHEDULED SESSION AS SUPPORTIVE OF A GROUNDSWELL FAVORING SARKIS.

5. WARING WAS PROPERLY NON-COMMITAL IN RESPONSE TO JUMBLATT SOURCE'S PLEA FOR US INTERCESSION WITH SYRIANS

(BEIRUT 3827). GIVEN EXISTING SYRIAN SUSPICIONS OF OUR

ROLE IN LEBANON, THIS IS A NON-STARTER.

6. WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU INSTRUCT WARING TO PROCEED AS  
INDICATED IN THIS CABLE. BROWN WILL LEAVE FOR LONDON  
AND BEIRUT UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO THE CONTRARY.  
APPROVE.....DISAPPROVE.....

7. DRAFTED:NEA/ARN:MDRAPER  
APPROVED:NEA:ARDAY, BROWN  
CLEARED: S:PBABIAN, SISCO

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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